



# Beaver Creek Fire

July 31, 2016, 8:00 am

## Closures & Advisories:

Closure orders have been issued for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands and can be found at:

[inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797)

Evacuation orders remain in place as issued by the Jackson Co. Sheriff's Office

## Fire Size Today:

32,109 acres (Current as of 8:00 am)

## Containment:

12%

## 265 Firefighters:

4 crews, 25 engines, 2 dozers and 4 helicopters

## Location:

24 miles north of Walden, Colorado

Fire is being managed on the Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests, BLM Kremmling Field Office, State of Colorado Lands, BLM Rawlins Field Office and Wyoming State Forestry Division

## Started:

6/19/16; The cause of the fire is actively being investigated by U.S. Forest Service law.

Management: Warder's Type 3 Incident Management Team

## Summary:

Saturday saw widespread fire behavior across the Beaver Creek Fire. While burning was most intense in the northwest section near the Colorado - Wyoming border, active fire behavior was also noted in the Medicine Bow Routt National Forest on the fire's west flank, as well as to the southwest in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness area. Burning in the interior was observed as the fire continued to consume pockets of unburned fuel.

Fire crews focused much of their efforts on strengthening defensive lines and mopping up where fire had entered the Parsons Draw area. "Mop Up," is the process of working through the area and physically turning the ash to ensure that no heat remains that could reignite and threaten the structures. Extensive structure protection work continued around cabins in the area and rotor aircraft dropped water to suppress the fire and extinguish hot spots. Additionally, an anchor point was established south of Independence Mountain for a burnout conducted to contain the fire.

High winds have continued across the area, increasing fire activity. Sustained winds of 22 miles per hour and gusts as high as 50 were recorded. These gusts resulted in long range spotting as far as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. Operations Section Chief Cliff Hutton said, "Once a spot fire is established in a section of down and standing dead beetle kill pine, it's very difficult to contain."

Weather forecasts predict cloud cover will increase in the coming days, thus reducing the amount of solar radiation on the fire area. This should lower surface temperatures and help reduce fire activity. A 25 to 30% chance of precipitation is anticipated through Wednesday of this week

Firefighters were reminded that even under the best of circumstances, wildland firefighting is a profession filled with risks, and they must always be vigilant of hazards. They were coached to stay the course, and wait until the fire comes out of the beetle kill to attack it in lighter fuels where they have the best chance of achieving full suppression.

**Incident Information:** <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797/>

Twitter: @FS\_MBRTB #BeaverCreekFire

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BeaverCreekFire/>

Fire Information 307-223-2291

Media Information Line 307-223-2220



